ELSEWHEN

The Journal of the Strange & Unusual Phenomena Research Association

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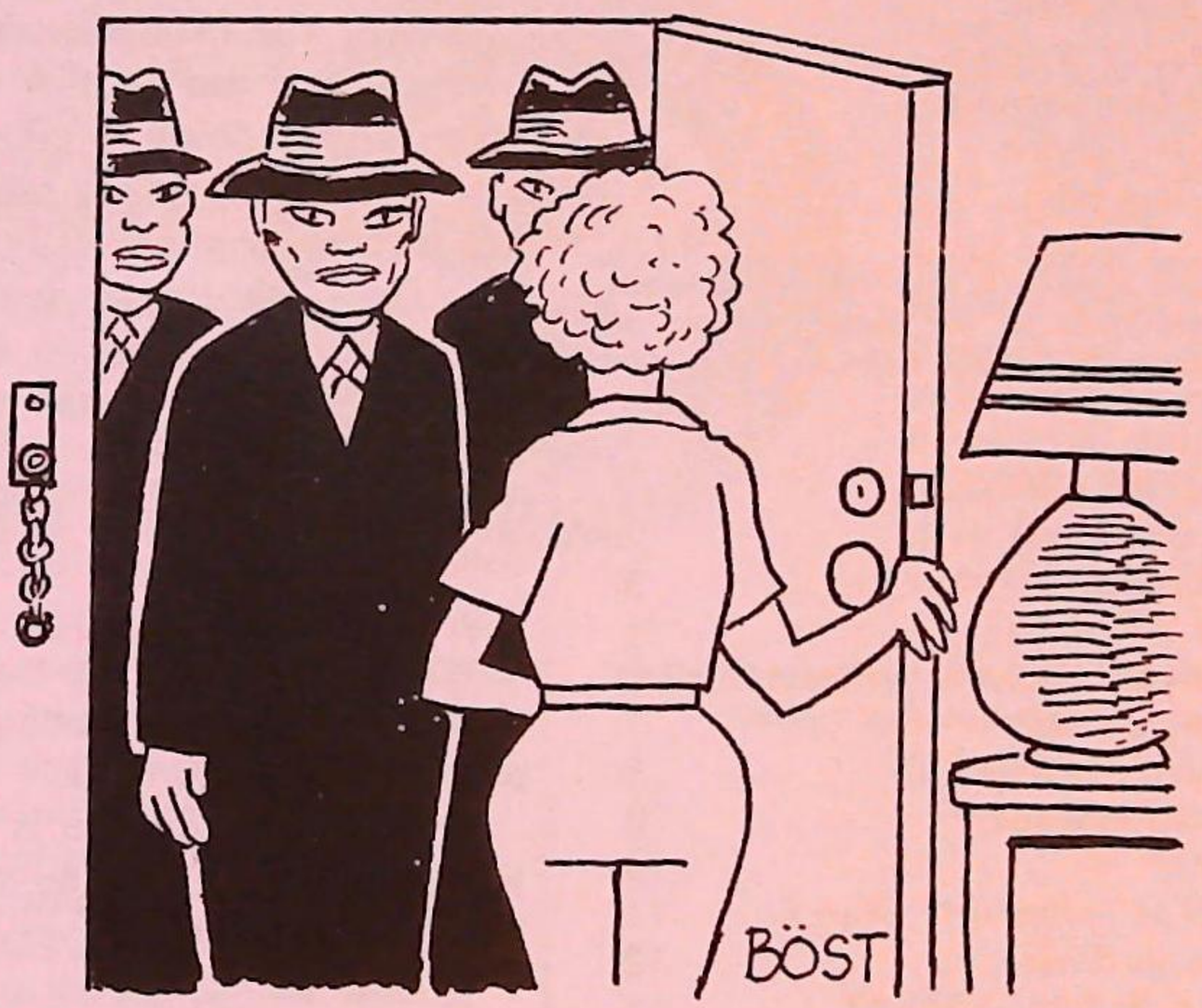
The Men In Black



Also featuring:

The Ghosts of RAF Hendon

ELSEWHEN
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings, friends! Welcome to the fifteenth issue of *Elsewhen*. As you can see, I am back at the helm this time. I think Ashley did an excellent job with formatting the previous issue. I am letting her do part of this one and half of the next one. It helps me out a lot to share duties with her.

I want to apologize for the lateness and condition of many copies of the previous issue of *Elsewhen*. Only 20 copies of #14 were in the new format (the first or "test" batch) and those were mailed about three weeks after I had intended. The rest of that issue had to be run off on a less-than-adequate photocopier and were mailed out during the middle part of January. The main reason for the lateness was two weeks of bad weather that prevented Ashley from driving down to give the master pages to me. She had to finally mail them. Fortunately, this issue has had far less problems!

This is a special issue, in that there are several articles having to do with the enigmatic Men in Black. We had originally intended to fill it up with 5 or 6 different articles by different authors, but several promised pieces never materialized in time. (A similar thing happened some time ago with the "Werewolf Issue".) This does not make this a weak issue, though, as other interesting articles tie the rest of it together quite well.

Another difference is that there is a lot of last minute or late material in this issue. This kept us hopping to the very end of February.

Now the bad news... There will probably be only three issues of *Elsewhen* published in 1993. This is mainly due to a dearth of submissions. The other two issues will be out in August and December. Of course, if we start to receive a lot more material between now and early May, then Issue #16 might be out in June. Enjoy this issue! Let us know what you think.

Mark

Britain's Haunted Airfields: The Ghosts of RAF Hendon

by Mark Gardner

In Northern London, about a 20 minute walk (in good weather) from the Colindale tube station, is the impressive Royal Air Force Museum, located on the grounds of the now inactive RAF Hendon aerodrome. This destination was one of my major goals during my research trip to Great Britain in September 1991. Why would a fortean researcher want to visit this place? Well, first of all, I was interested in airplanes long before I ever knew who Charles Fort was. Secondly, I have a particular interest in aviation during the Second World War, especially the RAF's courageous stand against the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain. Lastly, word has gotten out that "things" have been heard and seen inside the museum, especially at night when the place is supposed to be empty. Visiting a site with more than one of my great interests wrapped up in one was definitely worth my time and attention.

Having never visited the site before, I was totally unaware of what I might find there. If I had planned better before my trip, I would have arranged for permission to stay after normal closing hours. As it was, I arrived only about a hour and a half before closing time. (I might never have found the right place, if it weren't for a cute little English girl who pointed a poor, lost Yank in the right direction!) So my visit was a bit hurried.

The stories I had heard of Hendon's ghosts were all centered around the museum complex — two very large converted hangars and several outside exhibits. As with most "haunted aerodromes" in Great Britain, I am sure there are other sightings involved with outlying areas away from the museum that I am yet unaware of.

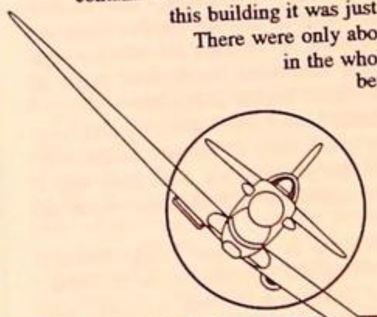
The most common stories I have dug up about RAF Hendon are sounds heard at night after the museum is closed. The sounds are of varying kinds, depending on time and the witness. They fall into three broad categories — voices and speech, moans and other sounds of distress, and mechanical sounds (aircraft related).

I asked a guard and a lady in the gift shop if they knew stories of "things" heard and seen in the museum, but they all laughed it off and told me they were just figments of people's imaginations in the middle of the night. Still, I am not so certain, as the majority of witnesses after-hours have been employees! It could be that higher-ups officially frown on current employees talking about "ghosts"...

The main building contains a wide spectrum of Royal Air Force aircraft from the First World War to the near present and the Bomber Command Hall. Voices have been heard, flitting shadows seen, but the most impressive sighting has been of a "pilot" sitting in the cockpit of one of the WWII bombers — nearly all claim it's the Lancaster, one the B-17 — in the Bomber Command Hall. (What's interesting is that the same thing is said to occur with a Lincoln bomber at the Cosford Aerospace Museum near Wolverhampton, although I have not been able to follow up on this yet.) Another interesting exhibit is the sole remaining Halifax bomber in the world, which was recovered a few years ago from a lake. It is kept completely as it was found. Seeing this wrecked and rusty relic gave me chills. I do not know if the crew survived or not, I am still researching the history of this plane. I do know that moans have been heard in or around the hulk of this aircraft by visitors.

The smaller hangar/museum building at Hendon contains the Battle of Britain Hall. This exhibit contains both Allied and Axis aircraft. When I visited this building it was just before closing time. There were only about three other people in the whole place and they left before I did. I actually

(Continued on Page 5)



ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM
BRITAIN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AVIATION

Imaginary Time, (i)t

by Morgan Eads
(dedicated to Donny Prues)

While I was attending high school in Jacksonville, Arkansas, in the mid-seventies, I read an article in the April 23, 1973 issue of *TIME Magazine* that changed my life. The article was called "Reaching Beyond the Rational", and it described some of the profound mysteries of most advanced sciences and its intrinsic dovetailing into realms of mysticism and parapsychology.

In particular, the author quoted a statement about quantum physicists from the late Sir Arthur Koestler: "No longer able to accept the atom as simply a miniature solar system....they found that the electrons kept jumping from one orbit into a different orbit without passing through intervening space — as if the earth were suddenly transferred into the orbit of Mars without having to travel."

Even to the bookworm of a teenager that I was, this was a startling thought. Had the quantum physicists discovered an atomic form of teleportation? Was there really such a thing? I showed the *TIME* article to a friend of mine, William, who was one year ahead of me in classes and, thus, more knowledgeable about science. William carted me off to see a teacher named Mr. Screeton, who had all of the answers about science because he was a physics and chemistry teacher.

"Yes," Mr. Screeton told me, there was such a thing in physics. It's called "the tunnel effect" or quantum tunneling. At the time, I hardly knew what "physics" was, much less quantum physics. However, the teacher encouraged me to come back to take his physics class, so that I could learn more about it. Well, I did take his high school physics class and then went on to four years of college to receive a Bachelor's Degree in Physics.

I later learned that the tunnel effect was very real, and it was the basis of a great deal of modern electronics. Years later, I still find the phenomenon fascinating and I continue to feel that it represents a fundamental form of teleportation.

Charles Fort, who gave us the term "teleportation", was also aware of this effect and in *Wild Talents* he wrote: "Upon the principles of quantum mechanics, one can make reasonable almost any miracle, such as entering a closed room without penetrating a wall, or jumping from one place to another without traversing the space between."

Fort realized that this sounded like his newly discovered concept of "teleportation". He wrote, "The quantum theory is a doctrine of magic. The idea of playing leapfrog, without having to leap over the other frog, is simply another representation of the idea of entering a closed room without passing through the walls." He had documented that common folk were teleporting into and out of closed spaces even without the benefit of a physics education. "Electrons and protons are dignified little things," he wrote, "whereas boarders and tramps on park benches can't be taken solemnly."

Shortly after I graduated from the University of Central Arkansas at Conway, Arkansas, I wrote a one-page article in *Pursuit* (Vol. 13, No. 3, 1980) about this curious relationship between physics and forteana. The title was almost as long as the article, and it was posed as a question — "Is Teleportation the Macroscopic Analog of the Quantum 'Barrier Penetration' Effect?"

I believed then, and I still believe today, that the answer that question is a resounding *Yes!* Teleportation and quantum tunneling are two expression of the same phenomenon.

In later articles, under the pen-name "Daniel Eden", I began to adroitly feel my way along, by a process of blindly stumbling about, searching for a deeper understanding of teleportation. Today I feel that at least some forms of teleportation involve a higher dimension of space and interaction with a previously unclassified force in nature. I call this force "The Dimensional Barrier".

Over the years, as I have learned more about quantum tunneling, I continue to see startling correspondences with macroscopic teleportation. For instance, at some point I realized that there had to be a kind of higher dimensional equivalent of "friction" involved in teleportation if it were to make sense, in terms of the dimensional barrier theory.

In a privately circulated manuscript, *PRINCIPIA FORTEANA* (1988), I referred to this "field induced friction" as *Zoellner's Principle*, after an early scientist who first suggested the possibility. It was a necessity to include this hypothesis if the theory was to make sense.

Later, while perusing some science journals, I discovered, to my astonishment, that the quantum physicists were also compelled to utilize a mysterious environmental friction that they referred to as "tunneling dissipation". Arthur L. Robinson wrote about this odd effect in *Science* (Vol. 231, 21 March 1986, p. 1372).

He wrote: "Dissipation also plays an important role in macroscopic quantum tunneling....As the particle tunnels through the potential barrier, the interaction with its environment can be thought of as a frictional effect by which the particle loses energy to its surroundings." (Although Robinson uses the term "macroscopic" here, he is thinking of distances much smaller than fortean "macroscopic" teleportation cases).

Other similarities between quantum tunneling and teleportation have cropped up as well. An Austrian researcher named Luis Schönherr has greatly encouraged me in this research. For instance, along with the possibility that teleportation involves and higher dimension of space, Schönherr has continually encouraged me to consider the possibility that it might also involve something about "time" as well.

It turns out that there is something very odd about the sense of "time" that takes place during quantum tunneling phenomena. Dr. Jonathan J. Halliwell describes this strange kind of time involved in tunneling: "The tunneling process should not be thought of as occurring in real time. In a certain well-defined mathematical sense, the particle is conveniently thought of as penetrating the barrier in 'imaginary' time, that is, time multiplied by the square root of minus one."

Now imaginary time should not be thought of as unreal time, because the term "imaginary" is somewhat misleading. Some physicists and mathematicians prefer to use the term "complex" instead. Complex numbers are any number multiplied by the square root of negative one.

In some situations, complex numbers are more strictly defined as a number with two separate parts — a real part added to an imaginary part, i.e.:

$$t = t' \text{ real} + t'' \text{ imaginary}$$
$$t = t' + (i)t'', \text{ where } i = \sqrt{-1}$$

For instance, one moment in imaginary time might be t = 10 seconds + 3i seconds. Another moment in imaginary time could be 7 days + 4i days. You could also deal with imaginary time written in terms of years, decades, or even millennia, if you wanted.

Actually, in formal physics, the situation is a little more complicated than this, because time can also be thought of in terms of a vector. A "time vector" is a quantity of time that also has a "direction" associated with it. For instance, you can speak of 10 minutes forward, or backwards, in time, such as, 10 minutes from now versus 10 minutes ago. Similarly, imaginary time can also have a forward or backwards direction but the vector notation for this can get rather messy, so we won't deal with it here. If you want to take a peek at how complex time can be, used in higher dimensional physics, then see Dr. Elizabeth A. Rauscher's book, *Electromagnetic Phenomena in Complex Geometries* (Tesla Book Company, Ventura, CA, 1982), but let me warn you that it is not for the faint of heart!

I have said that imaginary time in not really "imaginary" in the sense of being "unreal", rather, it is different because it is a kind of higher dimensional time. That is, just as "space" has a number of dimensions, time might also have more dimensions.

In *Consciousness and Reality: The Human Pivot Point* (Avon Books, 1972), the mathematician Dr. Charles Muses describes imaginary numbers as "hypernumbers", which, when graphed in a certain way (via a Gauss-Argand diagram), represent a space that is perpendicular to regular space (p. 187). Imaginary time would thus represent a "time-like" space that is, in some sense, perpendicular to our normal time dimension.

To be honest, most physicists who work with complex spaces don't think much about what it might mean in terms of actual reality. To those scientists, imaginary time is just abstract mathematical machinery that cranks out useful predictions, and then the complex parts of the equations are, essentially, discarded, when you've got what you wanted. (You "throw away" imaginary numbers by multiplying them by a term that is called their "complex conjugate".)

Another way to look at this is to say, in quantum physics you are required to use a strange notion of time to make your answers come out right — on paper. However, if quantum tunneling is similar to fortean teleportation, then this imaginary time concept may also have some definite meaning in our day-to-day world as well.

Exactly what the meaning is remains to be discovered. Maybe fortean theoreticians can figure out what imaginary time really means. If a little girl teleports through a wall during a poltergeist outbreak, is she passing through a higher space and a higher time, as well? Or, if imaginary time is only abstract mathematical machinery, can fortean theoreticians still make use of it, as the physicists do?

(Continued from Page 3)

did have a feeling as if someone was watching me. This is disconcerting to someone who is generally pretty skeptical about the Supernatural, despite the experiences I've had over the years. For about 5 minutes I was the only visitor and I left right as the guard was closing up. In this place it has been claimed that voices in both English and German have been heard; one person claimed to have seen someone walk around a Messerschmidt Bf-109 — when they came around the other direction to check, nobody was there; and once a watchman was outside when he heard the sound of an engine turning over inside — when he put the key in the door, the sound immediately stopped (playful spirits?).

Since the area around the former aerodrome is highly residential, I sought out some local people as I headed back to the tube station. Two boys (for a "donation" of £1 each) told me that most locals stay away from the base after dark. Most of the area away from the museum area is overgrown and kids over the years have "proven" their bravery to schoolmates by climbing over the fence in the south next to the Grahame Park Way or near the British Rail tracks to explore. They said a phantom sentry near where a gate once was and pale lights have been seen by people. Neither one of them claimed to have actually seen anything "queer" themselves so far, although they were hoping to!

I will follow up on this if my research turns up more.

"666" and "Medusa's Lair": Solving the Nebulous?

by Hugh H. Trotti

There are some ancient mysteries which we are destined never to solve, although in some cases we know far more than the peoples of the times that produced them. Our geographical and astronomical knowledge is far better, though we may always be ignorant of the social subtleties and historical details of olden times.

The ancient Greeks had a tale of three sisters of unusual abilities called "Gorgons" — Medusa was one. She was the one with serpents for hair, whose glance turned men to stone. She lived with the other Gorgons past the ocean, "on the edge near the night".[1] Where was that? At first glance one would say that this is exactly the sort of description that could never be solved by us, and is probably not even a good object of speculation. But these things can be deceptive, and we may not need to classify this as poetic but uncertain description, for there may be a simple pointer to the Gorgons' location.

In Homer's *Odyssey*, there is an interesting phrase used by Odysseus as he speaks with the king of the island Phaiakians:

> "... my island lies low and away, last of all on the water toward the dark, with the rest below facing east and sunshine..."[2]

Again, when the goddess Athena is describing the island Ithaka to Odysseus, after indicating the island's fame, she goes on:

> "... whether among those who live toward the east and the sunrise, or those who live up and away toward the mist and darkness."[3]

From these references in Homer — the most widely known stories of the ancient Greeks, whose phrases became "set" in repetitious formulas — we see that "the dark" most likely simply represented the west. The west and darkness is repeatedly contrasted with the east and the sunlight.

We may not be able to go further. There is considerable evidence that the Greeks received much myth and legend from Mesopotamia. Is the "lair of the Gorgons" simply west of Mesopotamia? In the shaky geography of the ancient world, this could even represent Egypt, where there was once a female Pharaoh who wore a serpentine crown that included the cobra. Where the "stone men" simply early statues misunderstood?

Greeks lived on the coast of Asia Minor and on the islands off that shore. Were the Gorgons thought to live west of those places — perhaps in Crete? In my book *Beasts and Battles* I had speculated that "Medusa" may have been an ancient priestess of a religion that turned men to "rigor mortis" — the stony rigidity after death.[4] There is evidence that in very early times there may have been human sacrifice in the lands around the Mediterranean, and it was tempting to point to the small ceramic female figures from Minoan Crete that held serpents and connect them with "Medusa" as priestess of some religion that may have practiced human sacrifice.

But here we admit to speculation without much proof. Perhaps it is better to stop with the evidence we have found that the Gorgons were thought to be located "in the west". Such a place is indicated by the habit of the ancient poets that we have seen of equating the east with light and the west with the dark. (We remember that an Egyptian place of burial was across the Nile and on the western side; the west seems to have been sometimes equated with death long ago.)

The point that we would like to stress here is that the most odd or unlikely things may yet be susceptible to being explained — if only we could range widely enough in our research. Our next example is a number famous among fundamentalist Christians: "666".

Fundamentalist preachers are fond of referring to "the devil" or "Satan", whose number is, according to Christian tradition, 666.[5] That people take such things seriously is brought home to us in the various lawsuits instituted by the company Proctor and Gamble, in connection with its emblem of a male face whose beard ended in curls that were claimed by competitors to represent the three famous sixes, thereby — it had been said by those competitors for sales advantage purposes — showing that P & G might be "in league with" you-know-who, which was nonsense, of course. Before we laugh at this, lately a friend told me that a customer asked to have a bill for six dollars and sixty-six cents changed higher or lower so as not to represent the dread number. P & G found it necessary to change the beard on its emblem, so as to straighten out the curls. The Winter 1992 issue of *The Skeptical Inquirer* reported that the vehicle licensing office in Great Britain would no longer issue the number "666" for license plates.[6]

Perhaps these worries result from lack of knowledge of the history of the Christian religion. The early Christians thought that the world would soon end, and that then "those pagans" would he punished. The noted scholar Michael Grant, in his book *Nero*,[7] stated that the number 666 represents or stands for Nero's name in the ancient Hebrew usage. If so, that Roman emperor is the "beast" whose number the three 6's represent. It seems doubtful that the uniformity of such a number could represent different letters, such as "N" or "R", but Grant may well be right, because there are other ways to write "666". Some Bibles have "Six hundred three score and six" as the way the number is written. In that case, we have the words "hundred", "three", and "twenty" (twenty being a "score"), to use in addition to the "six". And the number could also be written so as to use the designation "sixty". The various differences that may be utilized to write the number may well provide the way that the number could represent "Nero".

Certainly the Christians and Jews of the time of Nero had ample reason to despise him. If Grant is right, modern Christians need have no fear of the number, since it represents a person long since dead and relegated to the dustbin of history.

NOTES

1. Hesiod, *Theogony*, from *Besiod and Theognis*, translated by Dorothea Wender, New York: Penguin Books, 1986 paperback, p, 32.
2. Homer, *The Odyssey of Homer*, translated by Richmond Lattimore, New York, Harper and Row, 1975 paperback; Book IX, Lines 25-26, p. 138.
3. *Op. Cit.*, Book XIII, Lines 240-241; p. 204.
4. Trotti, Hugh H., *Beasts and Battles*, New York: Rivercross Press, 1989, esp. p. 107, and illustration on p. 104. Also the Egyptian goddess Isis resembles Medusa through her link with serpents as described in the Roman adventure novel *The Golden Ass*, though there she is a beneficent figure.
5. *The Bible*, New Testament, "Book of Revelation", Chapter XIII, Verse 18.
6. *The Skeptical Inquirer*, Winter 1992, Vol. 16, No. 2, p. 128.
7. Grant, Michael, *Nero*, New York: Dorset Press, 1989, Appendix One, pp. 207-208.

Publications

Last year we received samples of two publications we had not seen before. These were the premiere issue of *Far Out* and two issues of *UFO Encounters*.

Far Out is a magazine with a full-color, slick cover. It is the product of William L. Moore (of *FOCUS* and MJ-12 fame), Michael DiGregorio, Lew Bryant, and others, and devoted to a variety of topics. It has a quality look to it.

UFO Encounters, edited by Michael Norris, is a bi-monthly publication devoted to the many facets of the UFO mystery. A wide variety of articles appears. We look forward to future issues of it!

Addresses for both publications can be found on Page 19. We recommend you write and check them out yourself!

Public Awareness

by Kimberly Wajer

In the past few years the subject of serious paranormal research seems to have attracted a wider audience than just societies, such as SUPRA, which devote themselves to such. It seems to have gone beyond the mere folklore present in the minds of the general populace and reached the public fancy. This perhaps may be a "fad", but also may be a symptom of a general greater interest in explaining areas of our world science has generally left alone.

More pervasive than any printed publication is television — it enters nearly every home and just about everybody watches it. Traditionally, TV has shied away from parapsychology. Stations by necessity must appeal to the widely popular, and truly specialized stations came about only with the growth of the cable networks. The "popular" tends toward the dramatic and commercialized; people would rather watch a James Bond movie than a documentary about real spies. The closest the popular mind really got to parapsychology was tabloids and *Twilight Zone*-type programs.

Recently, however, a new interest has returned to the "real" world and hence "reality TV". Included is one program possibly worthy of note — this program is *Sightings*, broadcast on the Fox Network. While I cannot speak for the veracity of anything presented there, I get the idea that the cases are genuine. If anyone can back up anything the program presents or, conversely, can disprove anything, please let me know. I see this as potentially a good source of information, but hesitate to use it unless I can somehow back it up.

In any case, however, whether particular cases are valid or not, they take a scientific (or at least scientific-looking) approach. This tends to instill a positive attitude toward a scientific approach in those who watch. With a program like this available to the general public, a more fair image of parapsychology can be presented. This is not *Ghostbusters*; this is what it really is. More or less.

[I agree that shows like *Sightings* might help "legitimize" parapsychology and other fields, but still have noticed sensationalization, misinterpretation, etc., in some episodes. Examples are the "English werewolf" (psychological not supernatural) and the "Real Star Wars" (misinterpretation by some who wanted to see what they said they saw). *The Editor*]

Has Anyone *Really* Been Abducted Into Outer Space?

by Joy Barish

Now, after more than 20 years of amateur UFO research, I wonder: Has anyone ever *really* been abducted into outer space?

As I discussed in my earlier article about fairies and their connection to the UFO phenomenon, we may be dealing with angel/fairy hierarchies. In the manuscript I mentioned by Michael Topper, he speaks of the *joined auras* of the entities involved. Perhaps they are angels rather than hard, physical space ships or flying saucers, call them what you will.

It is interesting that in his *UFOs: An Initiated Account* manuscript, which I've studied for years and now obviously taking this out of context, Topper brings out on page 18 that (paraphrasing now) rather than being kidnapped/abducted out of our familiar world there is "a tacit central acceptance which permits the UFO beings to lead the abductee along and to *float him* aboard their ship.

On page 25, to be more explicit, the ship which I just mentioned about the joined aura, is described as the collectivized assemblage and fusion of the energy eggs of the beings themselves. This is just as individual soap bubbles may be blown through a tube and rise together so that they attach and merge into a single, *large* bubble. This is what we may be calling a flying saucer, UFO, etc.

Let me 'abduct' you now to *Journeys Out of the Body* by Robert Monroe, the Virginia businessman who began to have a large amount of inexplicable experiences in 1958, beginning with a "beam or ray" that seemed to come out of the sky north of his home at a "30 degree angle from the horizon." It was like being struck by lightning. Before this, Mr. Monroe was experimenting with tapes (I don't know what they were — types of meditation?) and he experienced very terrific cramps which "extended across his diaphragm or solar plexus."

In all of *Journeys Out of the Body*, we find no UFOs but some interesting dreams, one of which I had a variation of years ago. Mr. Monroe subsequently went into three different planes. In Locale I he made "visits" to people he knew of in this world in his so-called 'Second Body'. In Locale II, which he described as the "natural environment of the Second Body", he was in a world which mimicked our world and seemed to be solid matter. In Locale III, he went into an environment which *began* with him putting his arm/hand down *through the floor*. In this locale, which began with a hissing, he was again in a physical matter world identical to our own in which he took over the bodies of the inhabitants. In fact, he began a life of sorts there with a woman named Lee. He was her husband there. The man he took over was an architect and contractor who had gone to a minor college. Monroe became acquainted with buses that sat eight abreast, seats rising behind the driver in successively "higher tiers", in which he did not have to pay a fare.

Then there are the retrocognitive cases I've studied, for instance the Tunbridge Wells case of 1968, in which an old lady who went into a small self-service shop in Tunbridge Wells (about an hour from London by train) and perceived a *hole* or *space* through which she observed men and women casually drinking coffee in a 1918 sort of atmosphere. Their costumes went with this era, although no definite year is mentioned in *Time Travel*. I can't find the book now. Anyway, the opening was bordered by heavy mahogany, a sharp contrast to the chrome and glass of the small self-service shop. This shop was later a gift shop, as discussed by the guide on haunted bus tour from London we took in May 1991. It is now a computer shop. My husband photographed me outside of it.

The story goes that around 1918 to 1921 or so, the "Coffee Club" met outside to the left of the now computer shop. Note the *Hole* that Robert Monroe put his arm/hand through with much vibration going through him and the *Space* seen by Mrs. W. Our guide on that haunted bus tour from London had interviewed the lady, so I know it was a real case.

Going back to Topper's *UFOs: An Initiated Account*, he talks of the speeding up of vibrations instigated by "UFO beings" so there is an "element of readiness", a "potential ripeness". We are not abducted at all but actually subconsciously acquiesce.

When we undergo the UFO experience, we can enter *another world*, not in our *astral bodies* as *all* of us do while asleep every night (unaware to 99% of the people of this country, it seems, from what I see on TV, hear on the radio, read in the papers, etc.). We are able, as possibly Monroe experienced at Locale III, to enter the astral or some higher domain *physically* — a totally different situation from the normal astral projections we undergo every night.

Topper speaks on page 28 of his manuscript of a reorganization and full realignment of the psychosomatic currents and this is maybe aligned with the retrocognitive experiences such as Mrs. W. underwent in her brief venture in 1968. This lady was going to "take her husband to the unique coffee shoppe" but you can guess... It was simply *not there* when she returned a short time later with her husband in tow (just a heavy steel freezer was there). As I gazed into the windows of this shop in May 1991, I wondered what the computer salesmen would have thought had they known of this brief occurrence in 1968.

So, has anyone actually been in a UFO? Shouldn't the experience be thought of more as a *type* of spiritual experience involving a state of consciousness, which appears to take place in *space* but may really be enacted within our psyche? I know in my own cosmic consciousness experience more than 20 years ago (I don't remember exactly when now) this world certainly did fall away *sans* UFOs. It nearly was as if this world of ours, which seems so solid and concrete, hardly even existed as more than a comic strip or some trivial dream. I had seen a giant eye with my eyes closed, then it was as if black veils flew away and suddenly *I was* the entire universe. All I wanted was to *remain* like this in this world more than ever, but I fell to Earth so fast that I could not sustain it.

Topper, on pages 53 and 54 of *UFOs: An Initiated Account*, talks of the sudden, inexplicable, weird quality of the world we are hijacked into. As I've already mentioned, everything is "alien". This "world" the abductee suddenly comes into may not be out there at all, but *in an inner space* perceived by our higher self. One could go on and on...

Is anyone being/has anyone been taken into outer space? Probably not, but it probably will be a long time before the majority of the "alien embracing" ufologists can accept this. Happy UFO sightings to you all!

Flashbacks!

"Persons who have had 'men in black' experiences in connection with UFO sightings are urged to write Rep. Bella Abzug of the Government Information and Individual Rights Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations at the House of Representatives and Sen. Frank Church of the Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities at the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C. Both Rep. Abzug and Senator Church are interested in evidence pertaining to harassment of Americans by agents of the Federal Government in relation to UFO sightings or investigations."

— From *UFOLOGY*, Summer of 1976, page 34
(Contributed by Bufo Calvin)

[NOTE: Neither of the two above persons is still in Congress — Sen. Church has passed away and Rep. Abzug is retired. We do not know what became of the request. *The Editor*]

The Mystery of the Men in Black

by Mark Gardner

One of the most interesting, though somewhat uncommon, events connected to the UFO mystery is the appearance of so-called "Men in Black" (MIBs) after a sighting. In most cases they attempt to convince a witness to keep silent about what they had previously seen. The mystery is not only in the "strangeness" of these men, but that they apparently often show up *before* the witness has revealed the story to anyone else! How in the world could they know about it beforehand?

Let's back up before we go any farther and describe these MIBs. They are said to have an olive or oriental complexion in nearly every case, although a few examples of pale skins have been reported. It is much rarer for MIBs to be described as caucasian or black. A majority of the witnesses claim the MIBs had oriental features, especially the eyes. As for clothing, it is impossible to generalize, other than that they usually wear dark clothing. In many cases they are said to have arrived and/or departed in a dark sedan, usually thought to be a Cadillac, which is often years out of date. In those extremely rare occasions when the MIBs' cars are followed, they are quickly lost or even said to have disappeared.

They are known to appear singly, in pairs, or in small groups, although individual appearances are most common from what I gather. No case has all of the identical things another one does, which is quite unusual itself, although there is always "strangeness" of some sort involved. MIBs may speak with slight accents, use out-of-date expressions, be unfamiliar with everyday items, walk strangely or stiffly, seem to have respiratory problems, wear ill-fitting clothing (which is often out of style), etc.

There are two main theories about the origin of the MIBs — they are either aliens in disguise or special government agents. I don't think either of these is the correct answer, because there are *major* flaws in both of these. First of all, if aliens went to the trouble of trying to masquerade as humans to be "less obvious", they've failed quite miserably. Also, any beings advanced enough to travel light years through space would certainly be able to simply erase witness memories at much less risk to themselves. Secondly, MIBs can't be government agents trying to hide UFOs from the public, because they can't know about something before the witness tells anybody else. In both cases aliens or agents *would not* have been able to track down witnesses in *every* instance. It is clear that some witnesses were unobserved, yet still visited. There are many other problems with the above.

The easy explanation is that the MIBs don't exist at all; witnesses either invented them to embellish a story or MIBs were created by emotional trauma. I am sure many MIBs never existed, although I am not discounting every sighting. If they were government employees, then UFOs are actually secret military craft and there are no aliens involved. The weirdness of the MIBs precludes this one. The only option that makes sense, is that genuine MIBs are time travelers. The evidence fits! People in the future need only grab an old, yellowed UFO book from our time and make travel plans from the stories given. People from the far future would be unfamiliar with our things and speak "incorrectly" because of incomplete historical data. And so on...

MONSTER MENAGERIE: The *Tengu* of Japan

by Kenji Chōno

INTRODUCTION

The Tengu ("sky dog") is a being which is neither human, nor animal and whose definition varies from era to era. Today it is generally described as having a red face, long nose and wings.

In *Nihonshoki*, an event from 637 is reported: In the sky over Aska city, Nara prefecture, a huge, fearful shooting star appeared. Then a priest who had just returned from China stated, "It was not a shooting star, but a 天狗" (however, this term was not pronounced *Tengu*, but *Amagitsune*—"sky fox").

At times the Tengu was supposed to be half-man, half-beast, but generally it is considered to be a higher spirit-being. Each Tengu has its territory in the sacred mountains all over Japan. The clear definition is difficult because on each mountain the character of the Tengu varies. If classified according to their origins, they would be as follows:

1. Sanrei Tengu/Jurei Tengu (Mountain-Spirit/Tree-Spirit Tengu) — The spiritual essence of a mountain or old tree condensed after a long time and became this Tengu. They are generally huge.

2. Jindai Tengu (God-Age Tengu) — The Tengu form taken by the ancient leaders of the native tribes of mythological times—tens or hundreds of thousands of years ago. Most famous is the Sarutanohiko Tengu—the original form of today's popular view of the Tengu (red face & long nose). Some variation existed, though, and the Taroubou Tengu in Shiga prefecture was covered with scales all over his body.

3. The formerly human Tengus

   a. Sannin Tengu (Mountain-People Tengu) — Well-trained priests or other holy persons can become this Tengu, and they, as a member of each mountain's pantheon, protect the sacred area of each mountain. They are so diligent and have such a strong desire to improve themselves, that some of them can even become a god after further spiritual training.

   b. Ma Tengu (Demonic Tengu) — The condensed souls of warriors or emperors who died with a strong grudge became this kind of Tengu. It does harm people.

   c. Koujin Tengu (Trainee Tengu) — A trainee of the spiritual practice, attracted by some temptations during his training, became this Tengu. It is mischievous, if not as harmful as the Ma Tengu.

   These Tengus are similar to one another since all of them were originally human. However, the Ma Tengu and Koujin Tengu do not possess the divine atmosphere that the Sannin Tengu does. In regards to their abilities, the 'top' of the Sannin and Ma Tengus are equal in power. The Koujin Tengu is quite inferior, since it is a dropout from the hard training to become a Sannin Tengu.

4. The formerly animal Tengus

   a. Washi Tengu (Eagle Tengu)

   b. Karasu Tengu (Crow Tengu)

   c. Haurou (White Wolf)

   All of these were originally animals, which took the form of a Tengu, and still possess the original character they had as animals. They are regarded as lower-level beings, so they are usually ordered to work under the previously human Tengus. Still, those Karasu Tengus which are diligent and have a strong desire to improve themselves, will continue the training and evolve themselves into higher beings.

ABILITIES

All Tengus, regardless of the kind, can fly, but they usually need a fan to control their flight.

The Tengu has extremely strong power. When it gets angry at those who destroy or bring disgrace on a sacred area of the mountain, the Tengu throws huge rocks, breaks big trees down, and tears the offending people to pieces.

Lastly, the Tengus are able to take any physical form they wish.

MISCELLANEOUS

During the Edo Era, sudden disappearances of people (usually called *kami-kakushi*) were attributed to Tengus. Although a Tengu can live 3,000 years, since there is no female Tengu, they cannot reproduce themselves. Therefore, to train their successors, the Tengu was believed to kidnap people.

Some people claimed to have entered and seen the Tengu's world, or traveled to various places in a second, accompanied by a Tengu (some kind of teleportation?).

So, various strange phenomena were often attributed to the Tengu.

When in the mountains, sometimes there suddenly occurred the horrible sound of a huge tree falling down, although no tree had fallen down. Sometimes horrible laughter could be heard from the top of trees, although we could not see anybody there. The former is called "Tengu-taoshi (Tengu's breaking down)", and the latter is called "Tengu no takawarai (Tengu's laughter)".

By the way, in Japan we say "to become a Tengu" when we describe those who boast about themselves too much. (Perhaps conceived from the Tengu's long nose?)

[This is the final installment of a four-part series on the monsters of Japan. I want to express my great thanks to Kenji for an excellent series of articles! *The Editor*]

UFOs: Extraterrestrial or Terrestrial?

(Part II)

by Mark Gardner

In addition to my interest in aviation hauntings, this is the other area where two major interests — aerospace and "strange stuff" — overlap. In Issue #13 of *Elsewhen* I presented an introduction to this subject, focussing mainly on Nazi experiments during World War II. After the war much of the Nazis' secret technology and research ended up being brought to America, although the Soviet Bloc got a hefty share. The public is well aware of Wernher von Braun and the other German scientists, as well as the captured V-2s brought over for testing, since they played a big role in the development of the U.S. space program. The U.S. also learned a lot from the Luftwaffe's jet and rocket aircraft — the Ar-234 *Blitz*, Me-163 *Komet*, Me-262 *Schwalbe*, etc. I contend that other items were brought over after the war and kept under wraps. These could possibly have included the secret *Feuerball* (Fireball) and *Kugelblitz* (Ball Lightning) experimental aircraft that the Nazis were rumored to be testing at the end of the war, as well as many other things we can only guess at fifty years later.

The projects and experiments underway in the Third Reich up to the surrender seems endless. For example, they were years ahead in jet and rocket aircraft development, the A-9/A-10 project (the world's first ICBM) was planned (designed to hit the U.S. and other distant targets), testing guided missiles, atomic weapons were being designed, etc. On one occasion a flying boat flew non-stop across the Atlantic to within 12 miles of New York, then returned to base. Had they chosen, they could have dropped a couple bombs on Wall Street or Madison Avenue. This would have done relatively little damage (just like Doolittle's raid years before) but would have been an extremely important morale-booster at home (again, as Doolittle B-25's had in the U.S. after Pearl Harbor).

From the late 1940s to the present, the U.S. has been heavily involved in all sorts of research in trying to "push the edges of the envelope" in speed and altitude. The X-Plane program was critical in the development of today's aircraft, the Shuttle, and the National Aerospace Plane (NASP) project. Some of the material from the Nazis was instrumental in early designs, but engineers in many areas quickly left a lot behind in the history books. The fact we came up with the awesome SR-71 only twenty years after the end of the war is truly remarkable (and much of its construction was learn-as-you-go).

How about all these people who claim we recovered crashed alien spacecraft and are using the technology in our aerospace industries? Sorry, there is a clear trail of technological development and evolution over the last ninety years. Had we recovered alien powerplants or weapons, for example, this quantum leap in technology would be obvious by now in our aircraft. With the dangers of the Cold War any edge was important, especially one that would have left the Soviets far behind in the dust. There is absolutely no trace of such a sudden leap in technology!

Do you really think the government kept "alien-based" stuff hidden, while conventional aircraft and spacecraft continued to be constructed as a cover? Despite what you might think, the government would not have wasted its resources *that way*. Alien technology would have effectively ended the Cold War at any time, saving us lives, resources and time. There are too many scientists and engineers who would not have stood for such a massive charade. So were conventional jet aircraft and the Mercury-Gemini-Apollo series just a smoke screen to conceal our alien technology? ABSOLUTELY NOT! Our test pilots and astronauts would not have gone along with it. If we possessed *exo-technology*, jet engines and rockets would be a complete waste of time and money. In addition, dozens of test pilots over the years and more than a dozen astronauts would have died needlessly. Why sacrifice these people if we had a more advanced (and safer) alternative? Someone important would have talked by now.

(Continued on Page 14)

The Bookshelf

***WORLD ATLAS OF UFOs* by John Spencer,**
Pub. 1992 by Smithmark Publishers, Inc.,
112 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016.
192 pages, Index, Bibliography.

Just as there are different types of UFO experiences which can be put into certain broad categories (Daylight Disc, Close Encounter of the Third Kind, etc.), there are also broad categories into which books about UFOs can be placed.

The main elements of most UFO books include: recounting of reports, speculation about those reports, analysis (often statistical) of the evidence, narration of the investigation ("how I did it"), and commentary on the UFO scene.

A book which consists primarily of element one (reports), is referred to as a "seed catalog". A recent example of this is *WORLD ATLAS OF UFOs* by John Spencer, although it also includes commentary and some speculation.

It is a large, "coffee table" book, full of pictures. Visually, it is eye-catching — printed on glossy paper, and featuring many illustrations, "artist conceptions", and mock-ups. These drawings, some of which may be original with the book, tend towards the dramatic, sometimes at odds with the actual description in the book, i.e. the "Russian Park Giants" are described in the text as "tall and thin but with tiny heads", while the accompanying graphic makes them look like broad-chested, washboard-stomached comic book superheroes.

Aside from that, the book is not particularly sensationalistic, but written in an entertaining, journalistic style. It is divided first into geographic regions with a map showing sightings (although without latitude and longitude) prefacing each section. A foreword by a local investigator is followed by a chronological reporting of events and there is an end-piece by Spencer (an Officer of the International Committee for UFO Research) for each area.

There is a good mix here of well-known (within the "community") stories, such as the Roswell "crash" and the Betty and Barney Hill case, and the more obscure ones, which may have received little international attention.

It is the latter which are perhaps the more interesting. Cultural contamination (having your perceptions influenced by what you are familiar with) has often been used to explain the similarity in cases in the U.S. This similarity is an important factor in trying to establish an objective reality to the events. Suppose that you and I both report that we have seen a car speeding. If we both also *independently* report that it was red, that makes the case much more believable. If, however, we have both been told beforehand that "red cars always speed", and have been told that over and over again, we may report that it was red even if we are not sure. That's why it's valuable to read reports from people who have not been exposed to the UFO literature, have not seen "Close Encounters", and may not even be particularly familiar with aircraft. For instance, in an African case, the witness sees a "fireball" and then encounters two tall men in "shiny silver suits". An American would be very likely to interpret these visitors as the aliens who had been flying the spacecraft. The African witness thought that they may have been the spirits of his ancestors. The book does a commendable job of not ridiculing the witness' belief, but using it to show us that our interpretation may be affected by the fact that we actually have launched spacecraft, and live in a technological society.

This balanced approach, as well as the rare photographs (including those of people involved) makes the book well worth having. I bought it as a "remainder", a "promotionally priced" book. This type of book is what you normally find in a book store in the SALE section. The books may be publishers' overstocks, store markdowns, or books specifically published to be sold as remainders (often low-priced reprints). I believe this book is of the last type, and I saw it priced at $17.98.

Bufo Calvin

VISITORS FROM TIME: THE SECRET OF THE UFOS
by Marc Davenport,
Pub. 1992 by Wild Flower Press,
P.O. Box 230893, Tigard, OR 97281.
280 pages, Index, Bibliography.

Long-time readers of *Elsewhen* will know about my great interest in Time. It was with surprise that I received a copy of this quality book with a title nearly identical to a book I have been working on for years, although the content and direction of each is quite different. (Another surprise was that it came from a publisher only about a 45-minute drive from SUPRA HQ!)

The book contains many stories from all parts of the UFO mystery, including items involving abductions, recoveries, "impossible" maneuvers, phenomenal speeds, electromagnetic effects, the lack of "good" photographs, etc. It is obvious that the author has read quite a lot of UFO literature. Nearly every case recounted will be known to avid readers of this subject. The good bibliography and index are welcome and useful.

I found myself disagreeing with some points in the book, since the author based a lot of his theorizing on still questionable evidence, such as abductions, the crashed saucer/alien bodies/MJ-12 stuff, and the Philadelphia Experiment. And, for example, he cites the Maury Island case of 1947, which has been proven to have been a hoax to my satisfaction. (And a costly one, too, as the two investigators were killed afterwards in a plane crash.)

I always place less value on one-witness or even husband-and-wife stories as solid evidence, for obvious reasons. And I'm suspicious of witnesses/contactees who are gaining fame and/or making money out of alleged experiences. Unrelated and multiple witnesses are far more credible, yet extremely rare. That's the evidence I really prefer to use.

Although I may not agree with all his points, I was pleased to note the author's occasional skepticism in some of the "wild stories" out there. I was fascinated with how he presented a lot of the same material I have been gathering for years for my own book, although some of his conclusions are different.

I liked the chapters *"Electromagnetic" Effects*, *Where Are the Photographs?* and *Men In Black*, but was most impressed with his hypothesis that "aliens" and "UFOs" are humans and time machines from the future — something I have long believed. I plan to contact the author to share thoughts and ideas. I strongly recommend this book to the readers of *Elsewhen*.

Mark Gardner

Research Tips

FORTEAN RESEARCH ON A BUDGET: Tip #7 — Building A Visual 3-D Library With View-Master Reels and Tru-Vue Film Strips

by Gary S. Mangiacopra

No matter how many millions of words you have filed in your library describing a region where fortean phenomena have occurred, a visual picture of this area is immensely valuable and can quickly answer many questions that you may have. But, as a fortean researcher, I know of the problem of the lack of available visual images because nothing accompanied an article someone had written. Therefore, one must personally supplement a visual image themselves with their limited research budget. This can be, at times, a most costly effort if one is forced to buy books containing photographs of someplace that you are interested in, or even acquiring photographs from some historical society. Aside from the problem of financial cost, one must also lose time while waiting to acquire copies of photographs from historical societies or other pictures sources. In these times, due to cutbacks in the number of workers at such visual media sources, there is a longer turnaround time before receiving your ordered photographs.

Yet, many people do not realize that for the past 60 years an unbroken supply of literally hundreds of millions of visual images was offered to the buying public at the most nominal of costs. I have found them to be of immense help in research. What were — and still are — these visual images? The View-Master stereo reels and the Tru-Vue 3-D film strips!

From 1933 to 1951, the Tru-Vue 3-D film strips (stereo images recorded on 35mm film, containing about 14 scenes) were sold throughout the United States. These scenes were taken by both amateur and professional photographers for the Tru-Vue Company and covered the United States primarily, although other countries were also offered to the public. These Tru-Vue strips contained a variety of scenes that is somewhat random and refreshing, compared to the more "Chamber of Commerce" scenes offered by the View-Master reels. Importantly, these Tru-Vue film strips from the 20 years the company had produced them, contain visual images of places that now no longer exist. One can compare them with present day photographs.

View-Master stereo reels, which the average person is more familiar with, have been in production since 1938. They produce far more stereo reels than film strips, and can still be bought anywhere in the United States and the rest of the world. More worldwide, different subjects were covered in the half century of their existence that were in 3-D and in color, while the Tru-Vue film strips were in black and white (only in their last few years of business were color film strips produced, whose colors have either faded or are shifting).

For the past several years I have been building up a modest, but still growing, 3-D visual library of View-Master reels and Tru-Vue film strips that I consult when I wish to comprehend an area that I am investigating. As these reels are usually several decades old — just as old as some of the cases that are under current investigation — I can understand better what may have happened in the past.

And most importantly, if one buys carefully, one can acquire these reels and film strips at a most reasonable cost. A good source is always checking local tag, rummage, yard or garage sales as one may occasionally find some View-Master reels and stereo viewers at next-to-nothing prices. [Flea markets are also an excellent place to look for these items - *The Editor]*

There are two societies that one can join where you can buy View-Master and Tru-Vue items from either dealers or private collectors:

Stereo World, the bimonthly publication of the National Stereoscopic Association, P.O. Box 14801, Columbus, OH, 43214, U.S.A. Annual membership is $22.

ReView, View-Master and Tru-Vue Collectors Association (V.T.C.A.), P.O. Box 47891, Minneapolis, MN 55447, U.S.A. Annual membership is $9.

Before you buy, compare the prices offered and the price you are willing to pay. I compare competing prices very carefully and especially what conditions the items are in before I buy. Many times I let items go because I feel that the seller was not asking a fair price for them.

One more tip for those who wish to acquire a photography library without paying anything for it: Many older people or people whose relatives have passed on recently tend to dispose of such items they find, like photography equipment, photographs and *slides*. Photography equipment is sold, but usually photographs and slides are thrown out in the garbage can, as the person considers these items useless. This is a gross error! Although the majority of such items as slides and photographs show the typical family outings and events, some took in their travels typical tourist shots of state parks, amusement centers, wilderness areas, homesites from the mid-1930s, etc., when color slides began to be offered to the general public. These slides, as stated, show areas as they once were decades past and are an immensely invaluable visual record that you can use for reference and, most importantly, to illustrate an article.

Recently, an acquaintance at one of the places where I work was disposing of a couple of hundred slides that his

father and him had taken from the early 1950s on. I learned of these and was given these slides, as he was throwing them out. Going through them, I acquired several good shots showing Upstate New York, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island — and most importantly, over half a dozen showing Lake Champlain (of "Champ" fame) from the Vermont side in mid-1950s that are going to be included with an article that I am presently writing. Simply by asking, I acquired several dozen useable images for future potential articles at no cost to myself.

When acquiring slides, do not limit yourself to either 35mm size or 126 (as I had acquired from my contact). Smaller 110 size slides or the even smaller Minox slides can be blown up to 35mm size for illustrations. Also, the larger, older slides such as 127, 120, and other odd-sized slides should not be ignored, as they can be reduced to 35mm size if needed. Even slides the size of 4x5 or 8x10 (or even larger!) can be useable, especially if you can get them for nothing or at most a very small cost, such as postage for having them shipped to you.

And, by no means, never overlook any slides that were produced by amateur stereo-photographers from the late 1940s to the present day. These stereo-realist slides have an added bonus of their three-dimensional novelty that have actually helped their survival to the present, instead of being tossed out on the dump. Also, an amateur 3-D slide has another bonus of covering an area that was probably missed by View-Master reels.

So start your own fortean visual library for your own reference. You will be amazed by how valuable it will soon become as you turn your status from an amateur into a professional in this field.

(Continued from Page 11)

As I said before, there is a steady trail of development in technology up to the present. There is nothing out there known or still classified that does not have solid roots in human innovation or science, even the B-2 stealth bomber is the descendent of the late Jack Northrop's flying wings of the post-war era. And if we could design the SST, SR-71, XB-70, etc., in the 1960s, what did we come up with in the 70s and 80s? No, alien-based aircraft could have changed the world dramatically and historically, but there is no evidence to show this. Alien super-weapons would make us invincible; the U.S. would have ruled the world.

We just might have our own flying saucers. They would have had a long history of research and development. They are most likely atmospheric vehicles, so we would have still needed the space vehicles we did. Those "impossible" maneuvers can be easily explained by unmanned vehicles not restricted by human frailty.

Nowadays, there are sightings and hearings of mysterious aircraft around the country (see the two clippings on Page 15). There always have been, since the military has never stopped testing new aircraft. Many top-secret experimental types only have a couple prototypes and after the test program concludes, the aircraft are often broken up or cannibalized. There were predecessors to the F-117A and B-2, as well as fifty years of dead-ends, that we might never see. What sorts of things are under development *now*? The two newspaper clippings on the next page give tantalizing hints. Let's take the "Pulser" as an example: Has to be alien-based technology, right? Wrong! We return again to WWII Germany to find its probable ancestor — the FZG-76, better known as the V-1. This unmanned flying bomb was called a "buzz bomb" or "doodle bug" because of its distinctive sound. The engine was a type of pulse jet which made a kind of sputtering or buzzing sound in flight. I have no idea where fifty years of experimentation with this could have lead, but a pulsing noise with a "doughnuts on a rope" contrail might just happen to be the great-grandson of the V-1!

I am convinced we have *never* recovered technology of *extraterrestrial* origin, because there is no evidence in the technological base of our country. I am sure the debris recovered from the Mac Brazel ranch near Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947, for example, was from a secret military test vehicle. The later addition of alien bodies from another apparently related site (Corona?) is probably a hoax, although some researchers are sticking to its reality. (Where are those phantom, missing archaeologist witnesses, huh? People do make up stories, you know.)

It took us 66 years from Kitty Hawk and the Wright Brothers' first "hops" to the manned landing on the Moon — an amazing accomplishment in such a short time — all with human ingenuity and engineering. In the following 23 years we've come up with the Shuttle, F-117A, B-2, YF-22, YF-23, the NASP Project, SDI, and are apparently working on things that might make Buck Rogers' head spin. Why does amazing performance have to mean "extraterrestrial"? We humans have been pretty clever from time to time.

When the SR-71 was finally retired by Congress cutting its funds, there was little outcry. Since the Air Force didn't scream very loudly, I immediately suspected that something else "better" was secretly waiting to take over the reins. Why keep driving a Pinto when you have a new Mustang 5.0? Sure, I know today's spy satellites are extremely capable, but there will always be a need for reconnaissance aircraft, whether manned or unmanned. Many UFOs should be reclassified IFOs, since they are being built and tested in America! Maybe they are already *fully* operational. Laymen without a great knowledge of aviation would probably have been adamant they had seen alien craft if they had seen an F-117A (something from *Star Wars*?) or B-2 (a giant boomerang or Batplane?) before they became public. This continues to be the case today. The human memory does strange things when it has seen something unexpected, ask any policeman who has tried to get a clear description from a witness to a crime!

I will conclude this subject next time.

Now the News

This place is reserved each issue for interesting newsclippings that our readers and contributors send in to *Elsewhen*.

• • •

UFOs? Just new toys for those Calif. flyboys

By RICHARD SISK

WASHINGTON — They're seeing things out in California again — glowing things that go boom in the sky and look like Elvis "in the right light." But a new report yesterday said that despite descriptions, they're likely not "the mother ship" — just new toys for the Air Force.

"Some observers claim to have witnessed a vast, black flying wing, estimated at 600 feet to 800 feet width, passing silently over city streets in California," the report said. "The craft moved so slowly that one observer claimed he could jog along with it."

The 35-page study by the Federation of American Scientists traced an increasing number of reports of unexplained lights and noises over the West Coast since October 1990.

"While one might make tongue-in-cheek comments about the proclivity of those on the western side of the San Andreas Fault to see mystical bodies," the report said, the frequency and consistency of the sightings suggests the Air Force is testing a prototype aircraft at Nellis or Edwards Air Force Base.

The Air Force tested Stealth fighters for years in such secrecy.

Steven Aftergood, one of the authors of the report, jokingly said the UFOs "look like Elvis in the right light."

But based on the "flattened football" shape and the supersonic speeds mentioned in the sightings, the report speculated that the aircraft could be Project Aurora, a rumored successor to the F117A Stealth fighter, or a successor to the famed SR71 Blackbird spy plane.

The Air Force routinely declined comment yesterday.

(*N.Y. Daily News*, 4/21/92, page 16. — *Gary Mangiacopra*)

• • •

Mystery sightings hint at super-secret planes

Newsday

WASHINGTON — From the deserts of California to the panhandle of Texas, civilian observers have reported intriguing hints that the Pentagon may be testing one or more super-secret aircraft, including perhaps one with a revolutionary form of propulsion.

They say they have photographed contrails shaped like "doughnuts on a rope," seen delta-shaped aircraft with unusual lights, and heard engines that pulse with enough force to make walls quiver and sleepers awake.

There is speculation the craft may include next-generation spy planes, either manned or unmanned, capable of flying several times the speed of sound, matching or exceeding the fastest planes to date.

But the evidence, outlined in recent months in the aviation trade press, is greeted with skepticism by many analysts, including some who follow the shadowy world of the Pentagon's secret programs, or "black budget."

And there has been no consensus among observers on what kind of craft they may be seeing.

The recent public evidence includes photographs of a high-altitude contrail over Amarillo, Texas, showing a distinctive pattern that observers have described as like cotton balls or doughnuts strung along a rope.

Steven Douglass, a radio hobbyist who photographed the Amarillo contrail, described the noise of the high-speed craft as a "strange, loud, pulsating roar ... a deep, pulsating rumble that vibrated the house and made the windows vibrate."

According to *Aviation Week* magazine, there have been other reports of pulse-like engine noises and the distinctive contrails have been reported over Edwards Air Force Base, near Los Angeles; Portland, Ore.; and Denver.

Experts say witness accounts often are unreliable.

Even where there is hard evidence — a photograph of a contrail in the sky or seismic activity linked to unexplained sonic booms — the interpretation is open to question.

Still, the reports in *Aviation Week and Space Technology*, a respected trade journal, have sparked considerable interest among defense and budget analysts who try to determine what the Pentagon may be up to.

"Black" programs, for which budget figures are not disclosed, account for an estimated 16 percent of the Pentagon's annual $99.9 billion weapons acquisition program, analysts said.

One source with access to classified budget documents said secret programs under way include work on novel propulsion systems and on "stealthy" reconnaissance craft that can elude radar.

William Sweetman, an analyst who has written extensively on advanced aircraft, said there is some evidence the military may be working on a "stealthy U-2," a subsonic plane that can loiter at high altitude and snoop over borders without crossing them.

Sweetman also is convinced that a program once code-named "Aurora" continues in some form as successor to the supersonic SR-71, but that "it might well be unmanned."

William Arkin, a former intelligence officer who studies Pentagon programs for Greenpeace, said the military is aggressively pursuing high-speed, unmanned drones for reconnaissance and other uses.

Analysts say the "doughnuts-on-a-rope" contrail that has been reported by observers is consistent with the possible exhaust pattern of an advanced propulsion design called the "pulse detonation wave engine."

The principles of such engines have been described in technical papers at recent aviation meetings.

The pulsers use supersonic shock waves — created by successive small detonations within the engine — to trigger fuel combustion.

The design is said to be more efficient than jet engines for propelling craft designed to fly at speeds of Mach 3 — three times the speed of sound — or higher.

The Air Force managed to fly operational F-117 stealth fighter planes at an air base near Tonapah, Nev., for several years in the 1980s without public disclosure.

(*New Haven* (CT) *Register*, 9/20/92, page B8. — *Gary Mangiacopra*)

EXPLAINED!

by Bufo Calvin

MYSTERIOUS MIBs

In some cases, UFO witnesses (and investigators) have reported being visited by "men in black" (MIBs) who attempt to dissuade them from publicizing or investigating UFOs. The record is spotty and inconsistent, but several odd features have been associated with these experiences. This strangeness level tends to place them outside of simple government cover-up attempts.

By no means do all these "skews" occur in all encounters, but they have become part of the legend of the MIBs. Let's examine some of these factors, and see how the Free-Floating theory of time travel can explain them:

The MIBs call on the witnesses before the sighting has been reported. For many investigators, this is one of the strangest confirmable facets. Sometimes, the witness is visited almost immediately after the event. This precludes the MIBs working on government or police reports. There are three possibilities here: The MIB is a creation of the percipient, through paranoia or occult means; the MIB participated in the event (as, say, a passenger on the UFO) and followed the percipient home; or the MIB *has* seen the report...in the future. The first possibility, the self-created MIB, requires us to accept that there is no reality as we know it, or that it is so pliable as to be insignificant. The second one requires that the "aliens" are prepared to be sighted, and either keep Earthling clothes and cars on hand, or can manufacture them on the spot. The third is the simplest, once we accept that time travel is a possibility.

Let's say that 100 years from now, humans figure out how to time travel. The Free-Floating theory of time travel states that time travel is possible right now, that it is a natural process that we simply haven't figured out yet. It is important that the future humans keep humans in the past from being aware of it... otherwise, it devalues its worth to the culture that will discover it. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that they would try to suppress the facts and distract their ancestors (that's us) from their own incursions into our time-frame.

The MIBs show an unfamiliarity with everyday objects. Because someone tries to drink jello, does that make them an alien? No, it makes them unfamiliar with jello. It is important to note that the visitors have the gross parameters of human behavior down: they talk, they wear clothes, they show ID, they can drive on the street, open a doorknob, etc. This argues against a true alien. They just don't have the details, which is what we would expect of time travellers. Suppose I popped you back 100 years. Oh, you could speak English okay, although it would sound funny (which is true of the MIBs). However, would you know how to ride a horse? You might, especially if you knew approximately when you were going (so you might learn before you went). But would you know how to use a flint set, or whatever is right for 1892? Would you know what to order in a restaurant? Remember that the theory states that you would not know exactly when you were going, just probabilities. And would it be worth all the time and effort to get all the nitpicky things right? No. The MIBs are probably pretty successful; we just hear about their failures.

The MIBs may drive brand-new-looking out-of-date cars. Simple enough: Suppose that you knew that you were going back to a period between 1950 and 1970. Would you have the supply shop give you a car that looked like it was from 1970? No, because it would be an anachronism in 1950. However, a 1950 car would be acceptable, although slightly weird, in 1970. The same thing goes for old-fashioned clothes.

The MIBs sometimes show that they are in a hurry. Absolutely. Time travel is not under the control of the chrononaut. They just take advantage of the process, and a visit is probably pretty short.

The MIBs are an odd physical type. But not an unreasonable one for the future. Dark skins (which is dominant), strange eyes, less hair. The MIBs may come from a particular time which chose the witness visit as the technique to use to slow down discovery in the past.

These five clues fit well into a Free-Floating explanation of the MIB phenomenon. Of course, there are factors that are more difficult to explain, such as a MIB making a coin vanish. Although they may be perfectly legitimate, they may also be the result of "noise", either from hoaxers, unstable witnesses, or from the MIBs themselves. The last point is essential in assessing strange entity accounts. If you can not avoid being seen, discredit the witness. This theory works for all kinds of covert activities. Suppose you were going to break into someone's house through the roof. If you dressed up in a Santa suit, a witness reporting that they had seen St. Nick would tend not to be believed. And the more believable you could make your Santa impression, the less likely they would be to be believed!

So if you hear your doorbell ring one night, and see a big black Cadillac parked outside, prepare to meet the future!

[Some excellent theorizing! Thanks, Bufo! *The Editor*]

The Men in Black and UFOs

by Frederick Wisdom

The mysterious "Men in Black" (MIBs) are a curious part of UFO lore. They have become part of the scenario of the thing; they show up after an individual has a sighting of a "flying saucer" and caution against saying anything to anyone about said sighting. And they demand any film — including negatives — that may have been taken.

Though they may not always be dressed in black, that color is the norm for them: black suits and even black automobiles. It's as though they follow Henry Ford's maxim on car color during the Model T era: "Give 'em any color they want, as long as it's black." Sometimes they enter big black automobiles that, when followed, disappear. If they work for the government as part of the CIA or Air Force Intelligence, for example, they should be skilled at "losing pursuers"; if they failed to be able to do such tricks, it would show that they are poorly trained. (Of course, they might be the "larval form" of alien entities, possessing the appearance and capability of an automobile, as well as the attribute of shape-shifting. If so, let's hope they are non-polluting individuals.)

There was once a tale of an MIB who came to a house to question people and was observed to have a wire up his leg, visible between his sock and pants. Before we begin to imagine various cyborgs or robotic variations, let's direct our attention to our chief educational tool — the television set. Any attentive student of TV would recall *Miami Vice*, starring Don Johnson, which highlighted drug enforcement agents in their never-ending fight against unscrupulous criminal elements. One of their noteworthy tricks was to "wear a wire" which would record the guilty villain's comments for use at his or her trial. So we must ask whether the man with "the wire up his leg" was not simply some sort of government intelligence agent wearing a recording "wire". Lest these considerations should puncture our interest, we can always fall back on the other aspects of the MIBs.

They are also said to be able to appear suddenly in installations and facilities of high security — where "just anybody" could not enter. But, of course, if these people worked for an important secret branch of our own government and had high "clearances" — IDs and passes — they could enter many places barred to you and I.

Again, they sometimes look "Eurasian" — but so do many American citizens. There was one once who did not know what what "Jello" was. Yet there may be very many Americans who have never been inspired by the delights of that particular product; you don't have to be from Mars or the Fifth Dimension to not know about any particular food. On the other hand, are they afraid of Jello? Could it be used as a secret weapon against the Intruders?

One good thing about the MIBs... So far as I know they have never been reported as harming anyone. They are said to have threatened the job security of various people, but may not have actually carried out such threats. The reader must take his choice of opinion, are these MIBs: 1) myth; 2) tall tales; 3) government or military intelligence types; or 4) actual aliens from outer space or another dimension? The answer is not clear.

Movie Scene

The abduction phenomenon has caused a great deal of controversy. Something unusual *is* going on, but it is also clear that many UFO abductions never actually happened. We should be suspicious of anyone who is making money out of such alleged experiences. The possibility of a scam is always there. Victims of various "earthly" crimes — rapes, sexual assault, child abuse, etc. — quite often keep silent for fear of embarrassment, ridicule, ostracism, further trauma, etc. If I was abducted by aliens and experimented on, I would definitely *never* tell anyone!

In the ever-growing abduction literature, there are a number of "famous" cases. The memory immediately recalls Betty & Barney Hill, Whitley Strieber, and Travis Walton. It is this last individual's story we are interested in here.

On March 12, 1993, Paramount Pictures will be releasing "Fire in the Sky", starring D.B. Sweeney ("The Cutting Edge"), Robert Patrick ("Terminator II: Judgment Day"), Craig Sheffer ("A River Runs Through It"), Peter Berg ("Late for Dinner"), veteran actor James Garner, and Henry Thomas ("E.T.: The Extraterrestrial"). Produced by Joe Wizan and Todd Black, and directed by Robert Lieberman from a screenplay by Tracy Tormé, the new movie recounts the events surrounding the alleged November 5, 1975, UFO abduction of woodcutter Travis Walton near White Mountains, Arizona.

Mr. Walton and a group of coworkers claim to have encountered a UFO while working in the woods. The coworkers fled in terror as a beam "zapped" Travis. When they gathered the courage to return later, the UFO and Travis were gone. Five days later, Travis Walton walked out of the woods with a story about being abducted by aliens. At the time this occurred, I was still in school and it really excited me. Now, more than 17 years later, some details no longer seem to fit as perfectly as they once did. As time goes by, it seems more and more likely that this is a hoax. Still, we should not totally discount this particular case. I will explore abductions, including this one, in the future.

Whether this abduction really occurred or was just a story that got out of hand doesn't actually matter. The entertainment value makes it worth seeing anyway, just as past movies about the mythical Aurora Encounter, Philadelphia Experiment, and Hangar 18 were. I look forward to seeing this exciting movie, a large part of which was filmed here in Oregon. I will review it for *Elsewhen* in the next issue, hopefully.

The Editor

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